

Internal/External Conflict Practice

Directions. Look over the following situations with your partner(s). Pick 5 conflicts and identify what kind of conflict it is. If you say that is an external conflict also write which kind of external conflict it is. Finally, support your answer with clues from the passage that you picked.

Conflict Choices:

Internal Conflict (Man. vs. Self)

External Conflict (Man. vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. Society)

1. Mom decided to make lasagna instead of meatloaf for dinner. Once she got halfway through making the lasagna, she started questioning her decision. Although her family likes lasagna, they had just had spaghetti over the weekend. Would they even like the meal that she had put a lot of effort into? By the time her kids got home from school, she was quite disappointed in her dinner plan.

2. Matt believed that his friends were mean when they picked on a new student on her first day of school. Instead of joining in, he chose to walk away. However, later in the day he thought back to this situation. Matt wondered if he made the best decision after all. Although he didn't participate, he didn't help the new girl out either by defending her. Matt was unsure if he handled the situation correctly.

3. Hu and her husband want three children, but in China, couples are only allowed to have one child to help control their population size and are penalized if they have more than one.

4. North Penn school district has a state level ice-hockey team — for boys. When a group of girls want to start a girls' hockey program, they're told that, although it's a nice idea, there just isn't enough money in the athletic budget.

5. Shawna is offered a partial ride to a boarding school in Japan and a full ride to a boarding school in Pennsylvania. Both are really great opportunities and she is proud that she gets to choose from more than one option. However, she doesn't know which opportunity she should choose.

6. On a visit to a New England boarding school, a group of Philadelphia Academy students get stuck in an ice storm and have to reschedule one of their visits.

7. There is a volunteer soccer practice on Friday nights. You love going and advancing your soccer skills, even though practice is every Friday night. However, last week you had to go to dinner with your family instead. This week a friend has invited you to the movies. You are really struggling with being social and staying committed to a sport in which you love.

8. At a party, you spent a lot of time talking to a friend from your math class—just chatting. Now another classmate has spread rumors around school about the two of you. You are mad at this other person for getting involved in your personal life. When you tell this person how you feel, she starts yelling at you.

9. For the past month, you have been bullied on the school bus by older students. They typically call you names and hit your books out of your hands. Finally one day, you get fed up and scream, “Don’t ever touch me again!”

10. You have a project due on Monday. Even though you have had several weeks to read, by Sunday night you’ve only read half the book. To make things worse, your teacher has stated, “I have high expectations for this assignment.”

11. Although your friends say that you’re very attractive, you think just the opposite. You are overly critical about physical appearance.

12. Your dad is driving you and your friends to a big football game in town. Although you left in plenty of time, he seems to have lost his way. You think you saw the football field a couple of blocks back. You try to tell your dad that you think he is going the wrong way. When you ask him to listen to you, your dad, he snaps, “Who’s driving—you or me?”

13. “If she had only proceeded more slowly. If she had only taken the Southerly route, avoiding the icebergs. If only the watch had had a pair of binoculars.”

- Quote from a news story about the Titanic

14. Charles decided to break all the rules the day he decided to steal that car. He was immediately arrested and sent to jail to await his trial. He should have known better than to mess with the “rules.”

15. “I don’t care who you talk to!” screamed Sarah to West. “I just wish I had never met you!”

16. Tom found a dry spot to sit down in the dark and began to obsess over an argument he had had earlier in the day with his mother in which he had said, “I hope I never see you again!”

17. After lowering himself into the damp and dark cave Tom began to reprimand himself for not having replaced his flashlight batteries. Tom’s terror slowly began to take over as the light around him grew dimmer and dimmer and dimmer.

18. The hurricane reached land and the high winds destroyed much of the area. Power was knocked out for several days. Many people had abandoned the area. The people who did stay were confined to their houses while the weather was too risky to venture out. The storm even destroyed several buildings and trees in its path.